



Immunize Utah

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Utah Department of Health Immunization Program

Winter 2001

ACIP Recommends Use of Prevnar

In the October 6, 2000 edition of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) published their recommendations for use of the Pneumococcal 7-valent pediatric vaccine (PCV7; Prevnar, marketed by Wyeth-Ayerst Vaccines) to prevent pneumococcal disease among infants and young children.

The vaccine is found to be highly effective against invasive pneumococcal disease as well as preventing a portion of pneumonia and acute otitis media cases in young children. *Streptococcus pneumoniae* is a leading cause of serious illness among young children and the most common cause of pneumonia, bacteremia, sinusitis, and acute otitis media. Pneumococcal infections account for approximately 700 cases of meningitis, 17,000 cases of bacteremia and 200 deaths each year in children under age 5 in the United States.

According to ACIP recommendations all children aged ≤ 23 months and children aged 24-59 months who are at increased risk for pneumococcal disease (e.g., children with sickle cell disease, HIV infection, and other chronic medical conditions) should be vaccinated with PCV7 (Prevnar). It is also recommended that the vaccine be considered for all other children aged 24-59 months, with priority given to a) children aged 24-

35 months, b) children of Alaska Native, American Indian, and African-American descent, and c) children who attend group day care centers.

The primary series consists of three doses routinely given at 2, 4, and 6 months of age followed by a fourth (booster) dose at 12-15 months of age. PCV7 should be administered at the same time as other routine childhood immunizations.

Previously unvaccinated children 7 months of age and older may not require a full series of 4 doses. The number of doses a child needs to complete the series depends on the child's current age. Unvaccinated children aged 7-11 months should receive two doses of vaccine, 2 months apart, followed by a booster dose at age 12-15 months. Unvaccinated children age 12-23 months should receive two doses of vaccine, at least 2 months apart. Any previously unvaccinated healthy child aged 24-59 months should receive a single dose of vaccine (Table 1).

You can learn more about ACIP's recommendations by downloading the MMWR report from the CDC's webpage at www.cdc.gov/mmwr.

TABLE 1. Recommended schedule for use of 7-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV7) among previously unvaccinated infants and children by age of first vaccination

Age at first dose (months)	Primary Series	Additional Dose
2 – 6	3 doses, 2 mos apart*	1 dose at 12 – 15 months**
7 – 11	2 doses, 2 mos apart*	1 dose at 12 – 15 months**
12 – 23	2 doses, 2 mos apart*	---
24 – 59 Healthy children	1 dose	---

* For children vaccinated at age <1 year, minimum interval between doses is 4 weeks.

**The additional dose should be administered 8 weeks after the primary series has been completed.

+ Minimum interval between doses is 8 weeks.

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Improved Vaccine Coverage for Utah's Children

As a VFC provider you know that the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program provides federally purchased vaccine at no charge to enrolled public and private health care providers for eligible children. Children eligible for VFC vaccines are 0 through 18 years of age who are uninsured, on Medicaid, or are Native American or Alaskan Native. Underinsured children, whose health insurance benefit plan does not include vaccination, are eligible to receive VFC vaccine only at a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or a Rural Health Clinic (RHC).



In order to better meet the needs of Utah's underinsured children the Utah Department of Health Immunization Program has changed its vaccine coverage policy to include the underinsured. **Beginning January 1, 2001**, we are pleased to announce that State vaccine funds and

some federal funds will allow Utah VFC providers to immunize children in their practice 0 through 18 years of age who are underinsured. While underinsured children are not federally eligible for vaccines under the VFC Program guidelines, this new policy allows them to receive vaccine from any Utah VFC provider. The policy change was made in order to reduce the number of referrals private providers make for their underinsured patients to get their immunizations. However, this policy **does not** include the Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine, *Prev-nar*, as funding is not sufficient to cover this vaccine at this time. Please continue to refer all underinsured children to a Federally Qualified Health Center or Rural Health Center for the Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine.

This new policy will not change the way providers order vaccines. It will, however, change the way you report used doses on the quarterly Doses Administered Reports. The Doses Administered Report has been updated to include a category for the underinsured. Please report doses used for your underinsured children in this category. If you have questions or need more information concerning the new policy please call your program representative at (801) 538-9450.

... From the Immunization Program

We have had many changes in Program Staff within the past year so here is the latest on who's who and what they do.

Jan Kilpack came to the Immunization Program in April as the VFC Coordinator/Nurse Consultant. She is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the VFC Program. **Carlie Shurtliff** spends her days consumed in the VFC Doses Administered Reports. **Caroline Green** was hired as a Nurse Consultant for VFC provider enrollment, recruitment, and CASA assessments in the private sector as well as working with School Nurses on the School Immunization Report. **Janel Jorgenson** came on board in August as a Community Health Specialist. Her primary responsibilities include VFC provider enrollment and CASA assessments in the private sector. She will also be participating with education activities for the 0-2 year old population. **Rachel Johanson** also joined us in August as a Community Health Specialist and has been working with Vaccine Management and Inventory. **Martee Hawkins** joined the program within the last year and is our Perinatal Hepatitis B Coordinator. **Felicia Alvarez** is our CASA assessment coordinator and will be helping the VFC staff in performing CASA in the private sector. **Becky Ward**, our education/outreach coordinator is busy planning activities and trainings for the coming

year. Our newest staff member, **Lisa Frei**, joined us in October and is involved in VFC provider enrollment and CASA assessments in the private sector. Lisa will also be working with the WIC staff on collaboration projects.

A new VFC clerk, **Linda Jenkins**, was hired in September. Linda handles vaccine orders for both the public and private sector as well as helping VFC staff. **Melissa Hawkins** is also a new clerk and is responsible for our educational materials. All orders for pamphlets, VIS's, etc. should be sent to Melissa. **Barbara Clark**, program secretary, keeps us all on track.

Last, but certainly not least, **Phillip Gresham**, our CDC Public Health Advisor and **Linda Abel**, the Program Manager. These individuals are responsible for all aspects of the Immunization Program.

Please help us in welcoming our new staff members on board and thank you for your patience during this time of change.





CHIP

Children's Health
Insurance Program

By Susan Takach
Children's Health Insurance Program
Utah Department of Health

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is designed for uninsured children younger than age 19 whose families have incomes higher than Medicaid but who cannot afford private or employer-sponsored insurance. A family of four who has an income of \$34,000 will generally qualify.

There are currently over 20,000 children enrolled in CHIP and it is estimated that another 13,000 Utah children are eligible but not covered. CHIP is working with several agencies and programs to help spread the word and has run several statewide media campaigns to make people aware of the program and its benefits.

The comprehensive benefit package that CHIP kids receive is similar to that offered to state employees. CHIP offers inpatient and outpatient services, prescriptions, **immunizations**, laboratory services, vision and hearing screenings, and basic dental services. Families are required to pay small co-payments for some services, but no premiums or enrollment fees are charged.

CHIP offers a toll-free hotline, 1-888-222-2542. Hotline staff are available to answer basic questions about eligibility and to send application packets (in English and Spanish) directly to callers. The CHIP application is a simple one-page, four-questions form that can be faxed or mailed directly to an eligibility staff person. Eligibility interviews may be conducted over the phone with the applicant, making the enrollment process very sim-

Prevnar is
NOW AVAILABLE
through VFC!!



Mark Your Calendars !

National Infant Immunization Week	April 22-29
National Immunization Conference	May 29-June 1
Atlanta, GA	April 2-8
National Public Health Week	

CDC Satellite Broadcasts

Epidemiology & Prevention of Vaccine Preventable Diseases	
Session 1	March 15 10-1:30
Session 2	March 22 10-1:30
Session 3	March 29 10-1:30
Session 4	April 5 10-1:30

Continuing education credits are offered for each broadcast. For more info. contact Becky Ward at (801) 538-9450.



REMEMBER!

You can not use VFC vaccines for children enrolled in CHIP.
Children enrolled in CHIP are fully covered for immunizations in their medical home.

Sorting Through the Paperwork

Recently, a mailing was sent to all VFC providers with a newly revised *Vaccine Order Form*, *Eligibility Form*, *Doses Administered Reports* and *Tally Sheets*. Please note the following changes: Prevnar is now available on the *Vaccine Order Form*, an underinsured option has been added to the *Eligibility Form*, and both Prevnar and the underinsured category has been added to the *Doses Administered Reports*. New *Tally Sheets* were created for underinsured children to keep track of those doses separately. These new forms are to be used as of January 2001 as your master copies. Please discard previous forms. Not sure which form is the most recent? Look for the date in the bottom right corner next to the form number.



Don't forget! If you have not yet submitted your *Provider Profile and Enrollment* form now is the time to do so. A hold will be placed on your vaccine orders until the new form is received. Questions? Call us at (801) 538-9450.



Immunization Program
P.O. Box 142001
1460 West 288 North
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2001



Got Questions?

Our staff is here to help answer your immunization questions. Contact the program representative for your region by calling the Utah Immunization Program at (801) 538-9450.

If you are in this county Your Immunization Program Representative is:
Box Elder, Cache, Rich, Weber, Morgan	Martee Hawkins
Davis	Janel Jorgenson
Salt Lake & Tooele	Carlie Shurtliff
Utah	Lisa Frei
Summit & Wasatch	Rachel Johanson
Daggett, Duchesne, Uintah	Caroline Green
Juab, Millard, Sanpete, Sevier, Puite, Wayne	Jan Kilpack
Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan, Beaver, Iron, Washington, Garfield, Kane	Felicia Alvarez
Immunization Program Education Outreach Specialist: Rebecca Ward	